

From: Michael Taylor
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

I think the DoJ should drop the settlement and get on with more important things.

don't understand why the DOJ sued MS in the first place . So what if they gave their own - or strategic business partners' - products preferential treatment on the user interface. Every OS manufacturer does - look at any Apple or LINUX commercial product and you will see the same thing. In case you missed it, MS licenses a lot of the software applications it "bundles" with Windows - and so does Netscape and AOL-Time Warner when you get their products. What makes MS so different?

I used to use Netscape's browser exclusively. It was a great interface, and beat the heck out of MS's Internet Explorer 2 and 3. But, Netscape sat on their butts and MS improved IE's interface. When version 4 of IE came out, I switched over and have never gone back. Netscape radically changed their user interface and it backfired on them. They lost market share and IE went to the front. Not because MS did anything illegal - Netscape simply screwed up. Their "new" interface was so bad, they pulled the product shortly after it was released and went back to redesign it

If Netscape had kept improving their original product, they would still have market share - but they didn't. Now they want the government to step in and fix a business problem they caused themselves. To prove my point that even they know they screwed up - the latest version of Netscape offers users the choice of their "new" or their "classic" interface. Crappy software products die of their own volition - they don't need a stake driven through their hearts by MS - and legislation won't make people buy them, either..

As for being "forced" to use MS products - any high school student can tell you how to either uninstall a MS product or install someone else's software on a Windows machine. (How do you think all these violent games they are playing get on the computers in the first place? <g>) I think of MS as the Wal-Mart of the industry. They offer a wide variety of products that work well - but there are other products that do certain jobs better out there. Like getting appliances from Sears, or a suit from Armani. That's why I use Roxio CD Creator to make CDs and not the software MS provides. That's why I use several third party diagnostic tools and not the ones that come with Windows. It's like choosing to have my car customized after I buy it - no one forces me to leave it the way it was when I bought it if I don't want to, I can add fog lights, or fuzzy dice, a neon license plate holder, or even have it repainted if I chose to.

(Personally, I think the DoJ should look at Congress and the motives of Orrin Hatch, the senator from Utah and home state of MS's chief networking rival NetWare - strategic partner of SUN operating system and AOL-Time Warner - and see if there was any conspiracy to attack MS amongst them..)

Mike Taylor